

Together Everyone Achieves More



SETDD IS PROUD TO WORK WITH PUBLIC & PRIVATE PARTNERS TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman and SETDD Partnerships.....	2
Board of Directors.....	3
Area Agency on Aging and Disability.....	4-7
Community & Economic Development.....	8-11
Workforce Development.....	12-14
Regional Focus.....	15

The Chattanooga Area Regional Council of Governments, doing business as the Southeast Tennessee Development District, is owned and governed by local county and municipal governments throughout southeast Tennessee and northwest Georgia. The “District” was established to cost effectively provide professional staffing resources to local governments and to regionally deliver programs and services. This work is accomplished by utilizing local, state, federal and private funds to deliver programs and services through our core business functions: Aging and Disability Programs; Community & Economic Development; Career Workforce Development and Regional Partnerships.

SETDD staff members are looking forward to another productive year working with local, regional and state partners to assist in future growth for the SETDD region.



Message from the Chairman

Together Everyone Achieves More! This is a simple concept that is put into effect every day by the board and staff of the Chattanooga Area Regional Council of Governments, better known as the Southeast Tennessee Development District. Local elected officials convene quarterly with staff to address opportunities and challenges which will improve the quality of life for all citizens. SETDD staff provides additional professional capacity to our local communities assisting with strategic planning, community, economic and workforce development and helps us deliver vital services to families and aging and disabled citizens. Our work is only accomplished through cooperative efforts with all of our partners to whom we are truly grateful.



D. Gary Davis, Bradley County Mayor

I am pleased to present this annual report which highlights only a few of the accomplishments made during the past year and hope you will join with me in celebrating what we have been able to achieve together as a **TEAM**. In conjunction with UTK through the Smart Communities Initiative, 17 projects were completed ranging from plans for parks and recreation to legal research and policy analysis on behalf of local governments. Community and Economic Development staff developed and administered countless grant applications including 18 Community Development Block Grant applications totaling over \$12 million that will serve 108,193 residents. Through the Southeast TN Tourism Association, staff launched a new promotional video, published a new regional Waterfall Brochure and Outdoor Recreation Guide. SEIDA staff facilitated six new industrial locations and 13 expansions resulting in \$488,800,000 in new capital investment and the creation and/or retention of 2,451 jobs. A new Affordable Housing Program was piloted. A regional EPA Brownfields Program got underway allowing local governments to complete necessary environmental assessments on properties prioritized for redevelopment.

The Southeast Tennessee Career Centers served over 46,000 citizens, assisted 16 regional manufacturers with On-the-Job Training Grants and coordinated summer work experience for 117 young people at 62 work sites. As the single point of entry, the Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging & Disability provided information and made referrals for 7,357 individuals, counseled 7,838 individuals about Medicare Part D through the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, delivered meals daily to over 2,000 seniors and helped more than 5,000 people through an array of various programs.

Numbers fail to tell the human stories and the impact being made on peoples' lives, but hopefully help to benchmark a significant return on investment. I am honored to serve as the Chairman of a high performing, dedicated and passionate **TEAM** that includes my elected colleagues, all those that serve as board and advisory members, staff, funding and other public, private and philanthropic partners. Thank you for your many contributions to our regional success and being a part of our regional **TEAM**.

D. Gary Davis

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

FEDERAL

US Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration (TN Department of Labor & Workforce Development and Hamilton County), US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, US Department of Health and Human Services (TN Commission on Aging and Disability and TN Department of Human Services, UCDD, TN Department of Health, Department of Interior (TN Historical Commission)

STATE

TN Arts Commission, TN Department of Treasury, TN Commission on Aging & Disability, Bureau of TennCare, TN Department of Children's Services, TN Department of Economic and Community Development, TN Housing Development Agency, TN Department of Environment and Conservation, TN Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, TN Department of Tourist Development, TN Department of Transportation, TN Department of Human Services

LOCAL & REGIONAL

All Local City and County Governments served by the Southeast Tennessee Development District,
Southeast Industrial Development Association



2015-16 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bledsoe County

Gregg Ridley; *County Mayor*
Philip Cagle; *Mayor, City of Pikeville*

Bradley County

D. Gary Davis; *County Mayor*
Walter Goode; *Mayor, City of Charleston*
Tom Rowland; *Mayor, City of Cleveland*

Catoosa County

Keith Greene; *County Chairman*
Earl Gray; *Mayor, City of Fort Oglethorpe*
Nick Millwood; *Mayor, City of Ringgold*

Dade County

Ted Rumley; *County Executive*
Alex Case; *City of Trenton*

Grundy County

Michael Brady; *County Mayor*
Jana Barrett; *Mayor, Town of Altamont*
Glen Jennings; *Chairman, Town of Beersheba Springs*
Preston Miller; *Mayor, City of Coalmont*
Kelly Gibbs; *Mayor, City of Gruetli-Laager*
Marilyn Rodman; *Mayor, Town of Monteagle*
Daniel Crabtree; *Mayor, Town of Palmer*
Larry Phipps; *Mayor, Town of Tracy City*

Hamilton County

Jim Coppinger; *County Mayor*
Andy Berke; *Mayor, City of Chattanooga*
Katie Lamb; *Mayor, City of Collegedale*
Brent Lambert; *Mayor, City of East Ridge*
Ken Wilkerson; *Mayor, City of Lakesite*
Carol Mutter; *Mayor, Town of Lookout Mountain*
John Roberts; *Mayor, City of Red Bank*
Janet Kelly Jobe; *Mayor, City of Ridgeside*
Dick Gee; *Mayor, Town of Signal Mtn.*
Rick Nunley; *Mayor, City of Soddy-Daisy*
Bill Trohanis; *Mayor, Town of Walden*

Marion County

David Jackson; *County Mayor*
Paul Wayne Evans; *Mayor, Town of Jasper*
Rex Presnell; *Mayor, Town of Kimball*
Marilyn Rodman; *Mayor, Town of Monteagle*
Mark Myers; *Mayor, City of New Hope*
Jerry Godsby; *Mayor, Town of Orme*
Barry Elsea; *Mayor, Town of Powell's Crossroads*
Jane Dawkins; *Mayor, South Pittsburg*
Cindy Holland Easterly; *Mayor, City of Whitwell*

McMinn County

John Gentry; *County Mayor*
Ann Davis; *Mayor, City of Athens*
Sandra Lowe-Day; *Mayor, Town of Calhoun*
Tony Hawn; *Mayor, Town of Englewood*
E. Burke Garwood; *Mayor, City of Etowah*
Lois Preece; *Mayor, City of Niota*

Meigs County

Bill James; *County Mayor*
Jeff Landrum; *Mayor, Town of Decatur*

Polk County

Hoyt Firestone; *County Executive*
Jerry Stephens; *Mayor, Town of Benton*
Kathy Stewart; *Mayor, City of Copperhill*
Doug Collins; *Mayor, City of Ducktown*

Rhea County

George Thacker; *County Executive*
Gary Louallen; *Mayor, City of Dayton*
Ted Doss; *Mayor, Town of Graysville*
Billy Ray Patton; *Mayor, Town of Spring City*

Sequatchie County

D. Keith Cartwright; *County Executive*
Dwain Land; *Mayor, City of Dunlap*

Walker County

Bebe Heiskell; *Sole County Commissioner*
Raymond Crowder; *City of Chickamauga*
Andy Arnold; *Mayor, City of LaFayette*
David Bennett; *City of Lookout Mtn.*
Teddy Harris; *Mayor, City of Rossville*

SETDD Financial Overview	As of 6/30/16
FY 2015 Operating Budget	\$ 9,267,410
Pass Through Budget	\$ 9,442,088
Total Assets & Liabilities	\$ 11,067,422
Full – time Staff	(Average) 84

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016



The Area Agencies on Aging and Disability (AAAD) across the state serve as the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) into Tennessee's Long Term Care System. They are your **one source** for help and information. To contact the Area Agency of Aging and Disability call 1-866-836-6678. The Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability (SETAAAD) provides a number of programs and services to meet the needs of disabled adults, seniors and their families living in Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie counties. During Fiscal Year (FY) 16, the SETAAAD handled a total of **7,357** information and referral inquiries.

Services provided through the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) include:

- Outreach and education about all AAAD services with the goal of enhancing quality of life and helping seniors and younger disabled adults remain independent as long as possible.
- Providing information and referral to community resources.
- Telephone Screening for home and community based services offered through the AAAD.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • Information and Referral | • National Family Caregiver Support Program |
| • Home Delivered Meals | • Relative Caregiver Program |
| • Homemaker Services | • Help with Medicare Questions |
| • Options for Community Living | • Senior Centers |
| • CHOICES | |

SETDD welcomes new SETAAAD Director



On June 1, the Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability staff welcomed Criss Grant as director.

Criss brings 25 years of experience as a non-profit manager. Prior to accepting the position as Director of SETAAAD, she served 18 years as a member of the core management team for Alexian Brothers PACE. Before PACE, she worked with a group of volunteers to develop a local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She was the Chapter's first paid staff and served as Executive Director for seven years. Throughout her career, Criss has participated in several successful efforts to develop, improve and

expand services and support for those in need. We look forward to Criss' future at SETDD- welcome to the team!

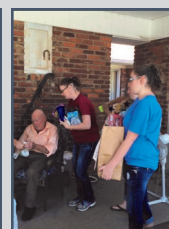
NUTRITION PROGRAM – HOME DELIVERED & CONGREGATE MEALS

The Nutrition Program is one of the foundational services under the Older Americans Act. Services are offered through a network of eleven providers across the region. Over **1,287** individuals received congregate meals and approximately **743** received home delivered meals.

On October 15, SETAAAD/SETDD Meals on Wheels Program partnered with the youth group from Blue Ridge Temple Baptist Church, of Old Fort, Tennessee to deliver meals as well as additional bags full of groceries, hats, gloves, and personal items to 17 participants in the Polk County area. The youth delivered while they were on fall break from school and had great time learning about community service. Participants were grateful to receive the friendly visits along with the bags of additional items.



Polk County Partnership





World Changers 2015

For the third year, in coordination and cooperation with World Changers, 600 youth volunteers delivered additional food items to meal clients throughout Hamilton County on July 15 and 20. Using donations received from World Changers, approximately 110 clients were given bags of food to fill their pantries. These volunteers did so much more than simply deliver food! They were able to connect with the clients and provide a wonderful opportunity for social contact.



RELATIVE CAREGIVER PROGRAM (RCP)

This is a Department of Children's Services program, serving grandparents and other relatives raising children. The program provides numerous services to support family stabilization and to avoid placement of children in state custody. There were **182** adults and **289** children who received RCP services.

In February 2016, the Relative Caregiver Program's (RCP) youth and teens in Hamilton and Grundy County reached out to show how much they care about homebound older citizens. The Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging, Relative Caregiver Program, and Home Delivered Meals Program collaborated to successfully deliver this **intergenerational initiative**.



RCP Teens display the cards and bears they prepared for homebound clients.

RCP youth and teens made cards at their monthly support groups to be given to elderly homebound nutrition clients in Grundy County. These young people were encouraged to write positive sentiments or to draw a picture that would brighten the recipient's day. Along with the heartfelt greeting the young people included a soft Valentine Bear to be delivered with the cards.

RCP youth and teens are offered annual opportunities to participate in service projects where they learn that giving back to their community and serving others is as much fun as receiving! We anticipate future initiatives where RCP and Home-Delivered Meals Program work together on other intergenerational projects!



RCP Youth make cards to accompany stuffed animals for Meals on Wheels clients.

An additional Youth and Teen Service Project was held June 21 at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. Twenty-five RCP youth and teens sorted donated food items and assembled emergency food boxes for Chattanooga residents in need. This volunteer experience provided the youth with the opportunity to serve others and make a positive impact on their community.

OPTIONS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM

OPTIONS is a totally state funded program that makes it possible for senior and younger disabled adults (19 years old and up) who need minimal services to remain at home. Approximately **250** individuals received services such as Case Management, Homemaker and Personal Care.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM (NFCSP)

The NFCSP provides Case Management and respite services to make it possible for caregivers to have a break from, or assistance with, caregiving responsibilities. Assistance and support may be offered to caregivers of persons 60 years old or older as well as caregivers of persons of any age who have Alzheimer's disease. Almost **117** individuals received NFCSP services. The program also offers Caregiver Training, Support Groups, and serves grandparents and other relatives raising children.



Three Southeast TN AAAD staff have received certification as *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* class leaders. The training course was hosted by the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability (TCAD). Master Trainers were provided by East Tennessee AAAD, Edler Law of East Tennessee and Family Caregiver Services.

From L to R (front) **Catherine Pippin**, SETAAAD, Debra King, Hendersonville, Kim Phillips, Lebanon, (Back) **Christin McWhorter**, SETAAAD, Pati Bedwell, Hendersonville, Tabitha Satterfield, TCAD, and **LeAnn Beck**, SETAAAD.



SENIOR CENTERS

Senior Centers are focal points in each of our counties, offering numerous programs including Education/Training, Health Education, Physical Fitness and Recreation. Almost **3,000** seniors participated in activities at senior centers. The AAAD staff provided quarterly training for Senior Center Directors.

STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SHIP)

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free and unbiased counseling and assistance to persons with questions or concerns regarding Medicare and its related health insurances.

SHIP achieved **7,838** calls and one-on-one appointments since July 1, 2015. The program has made great strides this year in regards to serving Medicare beneficiaries in our community. Throughout the year, with the help of existing volunteers and staff, SHIP increased its volunteer force by a third, bringing membership in the program to 79 volunteers, many of these coming from a new partnership with Memorial Hospital. During this year's Medicare Open Enrollment, SHIP saved Southeast Tennessee's aging population an estimated **\$304,906** by enrolling them in more cost-effective Medicare Plans for the coming year. In Chattanooga alone, SHIP was able to save a single individual taking expensive medications for a chronic health condition over **\$30,000**. By open enrollment's end, SHIP had served approximately **700** people since October 2015. The program has exceeded **\$300,000 in savings** for those they've counseled during Medicare Open Enrollment.



Beneficiaries complete form before having their plans evaluated



SHIP staff were recognized at the Tennessee State SHIP Training Conference for "Outstanding TN SHIP Outreach Performance" for having the most Medicare beneficiaries attend enrollment events than any other AAAD in the state!

From L to R: Jim Shulman, Executive Director, TN Commission on Aging & Disability; Shane Berryhill, SHIP Coordinator; Crystal Fairchild, SHIP Volunteer Coordinator; Kathy Zamata, Deputy Director of the Commission



PUBLIC GUARDIAN FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM

The Public Guardian for the Elderly Program served **65** individuals through court appointment. All financial, medical and personal care decisions are made by the Public Guardian. **The program is currently managing assets of approximately \$510,000.** An annual accounting is audited by the courts.

CHOICES

The CHOICES Program provides in-home services for seniors 65 years of age and older as well as younger adults with disabilities, age 21 and older, who qualify for nursing home care through Medicaid but can still live safely at home. CHOICES provides a large array of services for those enrolled. Our staff members provide in-home assessments to enroll persons in this program. Approximately **1,271** persons received CHOICES Single Point of Entry services.

SERVICE COORDINATION

Service Coordinators provide an in-home assessment to determine eligibility for Home Delivered Meals and Title III Homemaker Services. Case management was provided for **1,038** individuals receiving Title III services.

EVIDENCE BASED HEALTH PROMOTIONS

Health Promotion classes are offered annually throughout the southeast Tennessee region. Most of the evidence-based workshops are offered at area Senior Centers which are considered to be focal points where persons 60+ participate in a wide array of activities. This fiscal year we have offered **33** health promotion classes serving **487** individuals throughout the Southeast Tennessee region. The workshops provide participants structured activities that include group discussions, problem-solving, skill building, assertiveness training, videos, sharing practical solutions and exercise training.



Workshops, like those listed below, were offered at different times and various locations throughout the year.

- Arthritis Exercise
- Arthritis Tai Chi Exercise
- Chronic Disease Self Management
- Diabetes Self Management
- Matter of Balance
- Powerful Tools For Caregivers
- Memory Screening

TITLE III HOMEMAKER PROGRAM


This program makes it possible for frail seniors to remain in their homes by providing regular routine light housekeeping. A homemaker may also go to the grocery store or pharmacy when the client has no other way to shop. There were **205** persons who received homemaker services this year.

RYAN WHITE PROGRAM

The Southeast Tennessee Development District serves as the Ryan White Lead Agency for the Southeast Tennessee Region and continues to oversee the work of the Southeast Tennessee Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention (CHACP). Each year SETDD and CHACP reach thousands of people by hosting several community awareness events. Various meetings, trainings, and ongoing development and skills building opportunities are provided for the approximately 50 community stakeholders and volunteers involved with CHACP. The lead agency continues to fulfill its duty to ensure that HIV prevention, education, and testing services are provided to prioritized and at-risk populations in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the TN Department of Health and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



These services included the coordination of workshops, Tennessee Department of Health-HIV Services statewide meetings and the Tennessee Community Planning Group meetings. Additional services included health fairs and National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and Ryan White Minority Initiatives events. To provide these services effectively, we partnered with Tennessee Department of Health and various agencies across the state. These organizations have programs in place and individuals on staff with the expertise to deliver trainings, implement care, treatment, HIV testing, outreach services, and high-impact prevention methods to increase the knowledge of provider agencies and improve the health outcomes of Tennesseans living with HIV/AIDS.

Program staff also ensures that case management, dental services, assistance with transportation, food, and emergency financial needs are available to qualifying residents. These services are part of the continuum of care that is critical for the success of people living with HIV/AIDS to stay connected to care and achieve viral suppression. Ryan White staff continually work hand in hand with subcontractors and clients to actively evaluate the availability, delivery, and quality of program services, as well as program improvement. 



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community & Economic Development (CED) is vitally important to local governments throughout the region as they endeavor to develop climates where businesses and industry can grow, prosper and create new jobs and capital investment for their citizens. Positive community development, which includes quality growth planning and developing critical infrastructure, leads to successful economic development that creates places where talent will want to live, work and play.

PLANNING

In October 2015, planning staff provided two planning commissioner training sessions to comply with Public Chapter 862. A total of over 100 planning commissioners from the region participated in the training on state planning legislation, Robert’s Rules of Order, economic development, private property rights, and right-of-way issues. SETDD now provides planning assistance to 22 planning commissions throughout the region.

Grant Type	Community	Description	Total Grant Amount
CDBG Disaster Funds	Grundy County	South Cumberland Learning & Development Center Improvements	\$ 315,000
	City of Dayton	Sewer System Improvements	\$ 449,596
	Town of Altamont	Housing Rehabilitation	\$465,550
ARC	Bledsoe County	Health Department	\$500,000
	City of Dunlap	Industrial Park Improvements	\$200,350
	Marion County	Rail Spur Improvements	\$500,000
	Rhea County	Boat Facilities Improvements	\$500,000
TDOT	City of East Ridge TA Grant	Highway 41 Corridor Enhancement Project-Phase II	\$522,902
	City of Etowah TA Grant	Downtown Connectivity & ADA Project	\$354,672
	City of Dayton TA Grant	Greenway System-Phase II	\$348,477
	City of Niota-Safe Routes to School Grant	Safe Routes to Schools Grant	\$198,075
	City of Ducktown -Planning Grant	Community Transportation Planning Grant	\$90,000
TDEC	City of Cleveland LPRF Grant	Tinsley Park Renovations Project	\$500,000
	Town of Tracy City LPRF Grant	Old High School Gymnasium Renovations Project	\$121,000
	Town of Kimball LPRF Grant	Kimball Park Improvements-Phase II	\$138,000
	Town of Gruetli-Laager LPRF Grant	Park Improvements Project	\$92,000
	Town of Palmer LPRF Grant	Park Improvements Project	\$18,000
	McMinn County/ Athens RTP Grant	Rails to Trails-Phase II	\$200,000



McMinn County Planning Retreat

GRANT WRITING & ADMINISTRATION

Three local governments were awarded Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) in 2015 for projects ranging from Community Livability Projects to sewer system rehabs and Housing Rehabilitation. In all, these projects plan to benefit 18,025 residents of the region.

In early 2016, staff developed and submitted **18 CDBG applications** on behalf of local governments totaling **\$12,194,768** in project costs and **\$8,195,622** in grant requests. These projects included water and sewer system improvements, water line extensions, elimination of Slums & Blight and Community Livability Projects. It is estimated these projects will benefit **108,193** people throughout the region.

Staff submitted six Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation [TDEC] **Recycling Grants** totaling **\$125,000** and five Tennessee Department of Transportation [TDOT] **Transportation Alternatives Grants** totaling **\$1,703,000**.

Four local governments were invited to submit full applications to the Appalachian Regional Commission. Bledsoe County, City of Dunlap, Marion County and Rhea County requested **\$1,700,350** in grant funds to complete Community and Economic Development Projects.



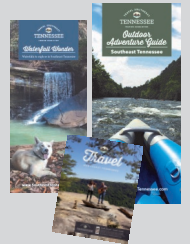
SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE TOURISM ASSOCIATION (SETTA)



The Southeast Tennessee Tourism Association team (SETTA) is proud to share the 2016 promotional video for Southeast Tennessee, produced by Stevie Stout Productions based in Kentucky.

Check it out at https://youtu.be/a1-i_nJ7e6o.

This was SETTA's first adventure in video production and it took the efforts of many, including the Department of Tourist Development for the matching grant funds through the Developmental Co-op Grant that helped make this project possible. SETTA is also excited to roll out a new Waterfall Brochure, new Regional Guide and new Outdoor Recreation Guide. Get your new guides today!



The Hiwassee River Blueway stretches 60 miles across southeast Tennessee through Bradley, McMinn, Meigs and Polk counties. The committee working to promote the blueway, which includes SETTA and community and public partners from across the region, recently completed a signage and access implementation plan thanks to a 2015 grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation. Another grant award from the Lyndhurst Foundation was announced in March that will provide funds to create and install signage at four access sites, one in each of the four counties along the river. SETTA also received grant funds from the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and the Volunteer Energy Cooperative to develop a website to promote outdoor recreation and tourism along the blueway.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced on February 24, 2016 that Athens, located in McMinn County, has achieved Tennessee Main Street certification. Athens joins 30 other Tennessee Main Street communities that are certified through the state program and accredited by the National Main Street Center, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation....



Athens' designation is based upon successful applications submitted by Athens Mayor Ann S. Davis and Athens Downtown Business Association Patti Greek, with support from nine additional community leaders and associations. The Tennessee Main Street Program application requires communities to illustrate a strong commitment to a Main Street Program from city/county government, an adequate organizational budget, a commitment to hire staff, a strong historic preservation ethic, a collection of historic buildings, and a walkable, historic commercial district. [Source: Chattanooga.com]

In addition, SETDD staff submitted a Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant for First United Presbyterian Church in Athens for dome and steeple restoration and our nomination for Downtown Cleveland's Historic District was approved by the State Review Board for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



preserve_seTN



preserve_seTN

SOUTHEAST INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (SEIDA)

"Your Regional Source for Sites, Facilities, and Financing"



SEIDA is a regional economic development association facilitating the creation of jobs, capital investment and additional power load throughout their service area. SEIDA provides services to assist businesses with locations, expansions, and help with the identification of financing opportunities, infrastructure development, and marketing and demographic research. SEIDA's board of directors held a strategic planning session April 14-15, 2016 in Blue Ridge, GA. Board members shared opportunities, challenges and goals for the upcoming year.

In February 2015, SEIDA rolled out a Community Assistance Grant Opportunity. The SR² Region Ready Program is to provide matching funds to rural communities throughout the SEIDA region for enhancement of economic development opportunities. Through the SR² program, SEIDA has been able to assist seven communities with projects to date.

Building Entrepreneurs in Rural Communities: Free interactive workshop to help entrepreneurs and small businesses

The Southeast Industrial Development Association continues to provide opportunities to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses in rural communities. This past year, two Small Business & Entrepreneur Resource Workshops were held in the Sequatchie Valley where attendees heard from not only local entrepreneurs on their successes and struggles in regards to opening and running a small business in a rural community, but also from Tennessee Economic & Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd, who shared his own experience as a successful small business owner. Local officials and leaders learned ways to improve business climate in their communities and networking opportunities among resource providers proved beneficial for all participants.



Panel of Entrepreneurs, Bledsoe Co.



L to R: Stephanie Watkins, SEIDA; Mike Partin, SVEC CEO; Commissioner Randy Boyd, TNECD; Beth Jones, SETDD/SEIDA



Sequatchie County-Dunlap Chamber of Commerce Membership Breakfast

Pikeville-Bledsoe County, TN celebrate Farmers Market Ribbon Cutting

The City of Pikeville recently celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly constructed farmers market, located next to the Bledsoe County courthouse. Tennessee Department of Agriculture Assistant Commissioner Ed Harlan was a special guest at the ribbon cutting on October 15 in Pikeville, TN. Assistant Commissioner Harlan stressed the importance of rural communities like Pikeville and Bledsoe County to have a

Farmers Market - a place for farmers, crafters and individuals to sell their goods.



Pikeville Mayor Phillip Cagle was joined by other city officials, Pikeville-Bledsoe County Chamber of Commerce officers, Department of Agriculture Assistant Commissioner Ed Harlan and others.

Project Activity

Industrial Recruitment & Expansions FY 16

New Locations	6
Expansions	13
Capital Investments	\$488,800,000
Jobs Retained	969
Jobs Created	1,482
Total Jobs	2,451
Prospect Visits	20
Prospect Inquiries	50
Existing Industry Contacts	148

Ribbon Cutting on New Construction in Etowah, TN

The City of Etowah in partnership with SETDD, celebrated the completion of its first house in a pilot program to provide affordable housing in rural communities. The Regional Affordable Housing Program is a pilot program of SETDD that seeks to revitalize downtowns and attract families to rural communities by partnering with local governments to provide quality affordable housing. Etowah was chosen as the site for the first house due to the character and history of the city.



Ribbon cutting with THDA Executive Director Ralph Perry, local officials, Dixon Team Keller Williams and others

In partnership with the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA), the City of Etowah, and SETDD, Burris Construction of Cleveland constructed a 3 bedroom, 2 baths, 1,121SF home on an abandoned lot provided by the City of Etowah. A ribbon cutting was held at the Louisiana Avenue home on May 17, 2016.

The home is eligible for 100% USDA - Rural Development financing at very low interest rates; qualified buyers may apply to purchase the home immediately through a local realtor. SETDD hopes to continue this neighborhood revitalization program by constructing other homes in the near future.


HOUSING

SETDD Housing Program includes HOME grants, CDBG grants, and the Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly (ERP). For ERP jobs, a one-third match of the total contract must be identified to assist with repair work (i.e. volunteer labor, donated materials, insurance payments, weatherization services, or other home repair programs).

This past year **53 homes** were repaired using these grants (please see chart below). ERP grant contracts for 2016-2017 will have an increase of \$100,000 in funding to \$300,000.

July 2015 - June 2016

53 homes rehabbed or reconstructed using the following grant funds (see chart below).

GRANT TYPE	TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT	TOTAL	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
HOME	\$3,000,000	10 projects completed	5 projects to bid with more applicants being processed. 5 new grants awarded	
CDBG	\$924,050	6 projects completed	2 projects underway; 3 to bid out	
 Grundy HOME 2014 Grant	\$300,000	19 homes completed with in kind labor agencies	<i>ERP Match Received</i>	<i>ERP Funds Spent</i>
		18 homes completed with traditional matching funds	\$92,500 (Volunteer Labor)	\$61,000
			\$91,500	\$ 140,500
		TOTAL	\$184,000	\$201,500
		Total Match Required	\$100,750	
		Difference indicating over match of funds	+\$83,250	

Current SETDD Loan Portfolio

Total Loans	29
Jobs Created	255
Jobs Retained	80
Total Jobs	355
SETDD Funds	\$3,049,883.00
Other Funds	\$5,477,000.00
Total Project	\$8,526,883.00

Business & Industry Grants and Administration

- City of Chattanooga Amazon EDA
- Lodge Manufacturing Company Fast Track Grant
- Jasper Materials Fast Track Grant
- Storm Copper ED Fast Track Grant
- TAG Plastics ARC & ED Fast Track Grant
- USSC ED Fast Track Grant

CAREER & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Southeast Tennessee Development District continues to serve as the Administrative Entity and Sub-Grant Recipient of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA); providing workforce services throughout the region. To deliver workforce services across a widespread geographical area, the District, along with a business-led Workforce Investment Board, operates full-service Tennessee Career Centers/American Job Centers in Chattanooga and Athens while also staffing Affiliate Centers in Cleveland, Dayton, and Kimball. Services are available in Dunlap one day each week. These Centers, which are a part of the nationwide American Job Center network, provide convenient, accessible workforce services to job seekers and to business and industry.

A skilled and trainable workforce is the foundation of the region’s economic viability and the Southeast Tennessee Career Center system supports this effort by providing job placement and training opportunities in demand occupations. Career Center Activity from July 2015 - April 2016 is shown below:

	Chattanooga	Athens	Dayton	Cleveland	Kimball	Dunlap	TOTAL
Career Center Visits	24,417	11,087	3,394	2,801	1,682	276	46,657
Resource Room Visits	13,208	3,509	1,370	1,912	788	132	20,919
Orientations	588	365	240	70	238	67	1,568
Enrollments	256	52	38	27	29	7	409
YTD Exits	247	79	35	52	19	9	441

CONGRESSIONAL WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS SUMMIT



Staff participated in a Workforce Solutions Summit on October 2, hosted by Congressman Chuck Fleischmann at Chattanooga State Community College, by facilitating breakout sessions designed to capture workforce issues and potential solutions. Attended by more than 100 area business leaders, education, and workforce and economic development professionals, this was the second of three planned Summits in the 3rd Congressional District.

The summit highlighted the shortage of qualified employees in the Advanced Manufacturing sector in occupations such as welding and machine tooling. Solutions included marketing those jobs to students in earlier grades and to their parents in order to change the image of manufacturing jobs.

WORKFORCE 360 AND MARION COUNTY MEETINGS

Ann Thompson, Director of Workforce Development at the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development, led the second Workforce 360 meeting at the Tennessee Career Center in Chattanooga on October 6. Workforce 360 is a partnership among state agencies and the higher education system that identifies workforce gaps and works toward solutions.

Marion County Mayor David Jackson convened a follow up meeting on November 3 that Ms. Thompson facilitated with Marion County manufacturers to identify local solutions. Area manufacturers made plans to organize a Marion County Manufacturer’s Association and to launch a marketing campaign to educate students and parents about manufacturing jobs in Marion County.



JOB FAIRS

Career Center staff partnered with local chambers of commerce, educational providers, the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, and other organizations to provide a number of job fairs throughout the year. Approximately **1,400** job seekers had the opportunity to connect with almost **135** employers, resulting in numerous immediate hires or expected employment for many throughout the region.

The local job fairs are considered premier opportunities by employers, educational providers, and job seekers to connect with each other. Participating employers represent various employment sectors including advanced manufacturing, finance, call centers, transportation and many others.



McMinn County Job Fair



COMPANIES BENEFIT FROM INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING GRANTS

Workforce and Economic Development professionals often hear that incentive funds primarily support new industry locations and expansions and that existing companies have few opportunities to upgrade their existing workers' skills. The Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) program is a competitive grant program that provides funds to eligible businesses to effectively retain and keep businesses competitive through skills upgrades and process improvement training for existing full time employees.

Four area companies received IWT funding in 2015. Grant funds awarded totaled \$75,000, which was the maximum amount possible, and the companies provided matching funds totaling more than \$47,000. Skills upgrades included certifications in Lean Manufacturing, Crane and Lifting Devices, AutoCAD Inventor, and Feature CAM. Participating companies were Astec Industries, Johnson Controls, Master Machine, and Roadtec. Companies must successfully complete all of the training components and document their matching funds prior to receiving grant funds.

The grant reimbursement checks were delivered and the 2017 IWT competitive grant applications went into process from the participating companies.



INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL COLLABORATION



Tennessee Career Center/American Job Center staff are shown with Winston Tompoe who serves as Chief of the Division of Workforce Investment Employment & Training Administration with the U.S. Department of Labor.

The U.S. Department of Labor hosted an Inter-Agency meeting for partner staff from eight states to collaborate on how to best serve customers under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The theme of the meeting was *“Building Effective Partnerships Utilizing Customer-Centered Approaches to Strengthen Employment Outcomes under WIOA.”*

Representatives from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Health & Human Services, and Labor, along with partner agencies, presented best practices focused on effective partnerships, building clients’ skills, and effective customer service.

YOUTH SERVICES

The 2016 Summer Work Experience program provided opportunities for 120 youth to develop valuable work skills at 62 participating worksites within our region. The program began on June 13 with an Orientation Event that included guest speakers Cordell Carter, CEO of TechTown who presented information on STEM careers and Brenda Freeman-Short, J.D. who provided training on the U.S. Constitution and the importance of voting.

The Summer Work Experience Program included a week of academic and occupational learning July 5 through 8. Training began with a day at TechTown where participants were introduced to four learning modules related to STEM education. Participants were introduced to LEGO EV3 Robots and received instruction on how to code them and move them in different directions. Also, participants were introduced to ultra-sonic sensors, light sensors, LED’s, and buttons, and received introduction to the behind the scenes coding for building a robot.

The remaining three days included training provided by Ross I.E.S. at three locations across the region. Topics included “Think like a Boss! Think like an Entrepreneur!” which provided youth participants the opportunity to change perspectives about work by exploring the role of a manager or business owner. A workshop titled “True Colors” was presented to reveal personality traits, and explore how knowing your “true color” can help with work and personal relationships. Participants also received training on how to be a leader in the workplace and how defining moments in life shape you and those around you. The group training sessions provided valuable life and work ready skills that develop leadership and motivation for success.

The Summer Work Experience Program concluded with a Leadership Conference for all participants on July 29 . The event featured keynote speaker Richie Contartesi, author of New York Times Bestseller, *In Spite of the Odds*. Richie presented an inspiring message on building relationships, overcoming the fear of failure, perseverance, and goal setting.

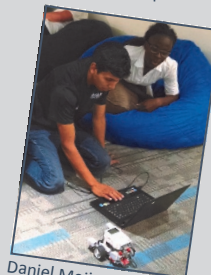
County	Participants	Worksites
Bledsoe	9	6
Bradley	7	3
Hamilton	31	16
Marion	28	11
McMinn	12	7
Meigs	9	6
Polk	6	3
Rhea	13	7
Sequatchie	5	3
Total	120	62



Summer work experience participants



Kayla Lankey— E.G. Fisher Library, McMinn County



Daniel Mejia and Kena Fomonung program a robot to make turns at TechTown

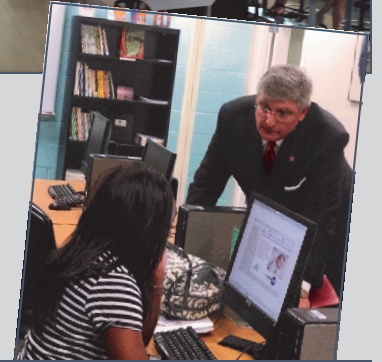
CLEVELAND CAREER CENTER RELOCATES

The Tennessee Career Center/American Job Center at Cleveland relocated to the campus of Cleveland State Community College. Located in newly renovated space in the Technology Building, the center continues to help customers find training and jobs in demand occupations in addition to helping area businesses find qualified employees.

The move was made possible by a partnership between Cleveland State, the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce, and the Southeast Tennessee Development District. An Open House on August 14 brought together local citizens, local and state elected officials, as well as the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development who said the center should serve as a model for other college campuses in Tennessee.

Cleveland State President Bill Seymour noted that the addition of the career center creates a “Workforce Development Hub” as it relates closely to the other service providers in the Technology Building including the OneSource Workforce Readiness Center, the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, and the Cleveland/Bradley Business Incubator.

Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Gary Farlow discussed the Chamber’s capital campaign to reinstate services following the 2008 closure of the former career center on Broad Street due to government funding cuts. Bradley County Mayor D. Gary Davis, who also serves as the Development District’s Board Chair, said that having a center available to provide career services to the community is vital. “In addition to helping workers develop their skills and find satisfying work, the center show companies looking for a place to build, that our community has skilled workers and plans in place to develop more,” he stated.



UTK SMART COMMUNITITES INITIATIVE

The Smart Communities Initiative (SCI), a interdisciplinary program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville which partners faculty and students across campus with one city, county, special district, or other municipal group each year to engage in real-world problem solving aimed at increasing the level of economic viability, environmental sustainability, and social integrity of the region. SETDD staff along with community leaders throughout the southeast Tennessee region spent last year working with students and faculty from the University of Tennessee on several SCI projects that spanned from parks and recreation to policy analysis and more, from 22 courses working in the initiative.

SCI is founded upon the idea that universities and communities should work together to improve the health and vitality of their areas. Through the leveraging of interdisciplinary research and scholarship, community dialogue, human capacity, and innovation, municipal and university partners will collaborate toward the pursuit of smarter, more vibrant communities. [source: servicelearning.utk.edu/smart-communities-initiative/]

A celebration and showcase of the various projects from year one of this two-year collaboration was held April 2016 in the West Club at Neyland Stadium. Presentations were made on all seventeen of the projects that ranged in scope from the development of an industrial park to a regional aging study in a rural, distressed county.



SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Area Agency on Aging & Disability • Business Loan Development • Community & Economic Development • Grant Writing & Project Administration • Housing Development • Local Planning Assistance • Natural Resource Planning • Project Development • Ryan White Program • Transportation Planning • Tourism & Historic Preservation • Workforce Development

